GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4327
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2003
PRODUCTIVITY OF COCONUT IN ROOT WILT DISEASE AREAS
T. GOVINDAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal submitted by Kerala Government with the project components ofscientific crop management etc., for enhancing productivity of coconut holdings in root wilt diseased areas in the State has been accepted by the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the funds allotted for this purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): Government of Kerala submitted a project for `Enhancing productivity of coconutholdings in rootwilt diseased areas of Kerala` with an outlay of Rs.576.14 crores for a period of5 years, which includes adoption of scientific crop management; removal of diseased trees in the border districts of Thiruvananthapuram and Thrissur; supply of seedlings for replanting and creation of awareness etc. The project stipulate Government of India`s share of Rs.181.70crores. The project was examined in Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. For similar programmes, Government of India has provided Rs.110.94 crores to Government of Kerala, through Coconut Development Board since its inception. Funds for such project requiring high investment within time frame cannot be provided from the meager financial allocation available with Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. Government of Kerala, therefore, has been advised to send the revised project to Planning Commission directly for funding or identified external agency with detailed justification for strategies and components proposed to be implemented, time frame for each activity alongwith techno-economic and financial viability etc.

The Coconut Development Board, in the meanwhile, has sanctioned an additional amountof Rs.125.00 lakhs under the component ` Management of disease affected gardens` for cutting and removal of additional 50,000 nos. of disease advanced palms in Kerala by providing compensation @ Rs.250/- per palm. The Project Approval Committee of the CoconutDevelopment Board under the Technology Mission on Coconut has also snactioned a project of Government of Kerala for a total cost of Rs.3770.00 lakhs for a period of 5 years, for containing rootwilt disease in the border districts of Kerala viz., Thiruvananthapuram and Thrissur. The project includes cutting and removal of all diseased trees in the border districts; improving health of the trees in the border areas by adopting better scientific management practices and standardizing population to the optimum level by proper replanting. Out of total amount of Rs.942.00 lakhs sanctioned towards 25% of the total project cost, an amount of Rs.188.00 lakhs has been released to Government of Kerala during 2002-2003, for the first year.